Critical thinking means examining the evidence or your own opinion to come to an evidence-based informed view.

Evaluating and analysing

Examine the evidence you have. Look at whether the papers have come from certain sources, seem to be biased towards one view, or if the results do not seem to substantiate the claims they make in their research. Report these flaws in your own research, and attempt to suggest ways in which research in the field can be improved.

Challenge

Be prepared to challenge your own beliefs or opinions through the evidence you are reading.

Contrast and debate

Contrast alternative views to the ones you are looking at. Debate the strengths and weaknesses of each approach and what they could add.

Combine and synthesize

Try and combine the literature in the field you are looking at. Attempt to find similarities in the positions they have taken, you can then draw out a critique from looking at the literature as a whole. For example, if all the papers have used a quantitative approach and the field may benefit from a qualitative angle.

Research

Look up any critical evaluation tools that you could use to support your evaluation of research and report how well it has been conducted.